

FRATERNAL GREETINGS

CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS AND STAFF ASSOCIATIONS OF BARBADOS

Fraternal Greetings to the

42nd Annual Conference of the Barbados Union of Teachers

2nd April, 2016, Almond Bay Centre, Hastings, Christ Church

Theme: Mobilizing Young Workers: Key to the Future of the Trade Unions



On the occasion of the 42nd Annual Conference of the Barbados Union of Teachers, the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados (CTUSAB) is delighted to extend warm fraternal greetings to this strident and highly visible organization, which serves as the representative body for teachers across the educational system of Barbados.

As the Congress celebrates its 21st anniversary as the local trade union national centre, it is fitting that it takes this opportunity to commend the BUT on its continued and tireless work; both as a professional and trade union organization.

The theme chosen for this 42nd Annual Conference, 'Mobilizing Young Workers: Key to the Future of the Trade Unions', is indicative of the union's recognition of the fact that the future of the labour movement depends on mobilizing young workers.

Against the backdrop of declining union membership, occasioned by persons exiting the workforce, either on reaching the retirement age or by opting for early retirement; coupled with the lack of apparent disinterest by young workers in joining trade unions, CTUSAB advances the position that there is a need for a repositioning of trade unions, so that they become more appealing to young people across the various demographic groups and occupations.



If it is accepted that trade unions and young workers need each other, then it follows that trade unions work assiduously to identify initiatives and strategies that are designed to attract and outreach to this target group. This will redound to the benefit of the movement, if it is to successfully counteract the many economic and social problems which emerge as challenges that beset this current generation of workers.

It is now more apparent that the labour movement needs to consider a change of approach to both organizing and representation, if it is to better meet the needs and address the concerns of young workers.

As your membership discuss the theme for this 42nd Annual Conference, CTUSAB urges that careful consideration is given to encouraging the input and innovative ideas of young workers, for the purpose of the building of the labour movement, and working towards ensuring that trade unions both individually and collectively, contribute in a significant way to promoting a more just society for all generations.

CTUSAB express best wish to the Barbados Union of Teachers, BUT for a productive 42nd Annual Conference, and looks forward to the union sharing the outcomes of the conference deliberations on the all-important theme of ‘Mobilizing Young Workers: Key to the Future of the Trade Unions’, with its other fraternal organizations.

Fraternally,



DENNIS DE PEIZA
General Secretary